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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

1949 DATA REVEAL INCREASE IN ABSENTEEISM

CALLS FOR DOCTORS' COOPERATION -- Trybuna Ludu, No 100, 12 Apr 50

Workers entitled to free medical service in Poland have increased to 11 million. In 1949, approximately 50 million consultations and 20 million treatments were given. The health of the public is slowly improving. In spite of this, absenteeism due to sickness is increasing. In 1947, sick leave for every 100 insured persons amounted to 42.6 days per month. It rose to 50.4 days in 1949, 51.1 days in January 1950, 59.9 days in February 1950. These figures do not include the one and 2-day sick leaves which are more prevalent than the longer sick leaves. Results of such a great number of medical releases from work have been felt especially keenly in Gorny Slask where the number of sick releases reached a new high -- 105 releases per 100 insured persons.

Further analysis of the figures shows that while the number of unauthorized absences dropped, the number of approved sick leave cases increased. Evidently, shirkers now obtain medically approved sick leave. When flying commissions visit doctors' offices in Gorny Slask, many "patients" leave the doctor's waiting room immediately. Data indicate that absences always increase during spring when there is work to be done in the gardens. The liberal attitude on part of doctors is harmful to the general public. It takes people away from production, upsets the production plan, and demoralizes the workers.

SICK LEAVE TO BE STANDARDIZED -- Rzeczpospolita; No 102, 14 Apr 50

The Central Commission for Checking Sick-Leave Cases activated recently, will standardize the approval of sick leave. Sick leave for more than 8 consecutive days has to be approved by the medical commission composed of several doctors. To prevent abuse, even this commission will be checked by the Confederated Welfare Commissions which has control over doctors, medical commissions, and medical equipment.

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ALCOHOLISM INCREASES ABSENTEEISM -- Dziennik Polski, No 107, 19 Apr 50

The increase in absenteeism during 1949 is shown by a disproportionate increase in doctors' hours of 36 percent, and in medical attention of 60 percent, while the number of persons insured increased only 23 percent. In January 1950, absenteeism in the General Consumers Food Cooperatives Bakery in Zablocie reached 26 percent. Other enterprises have a very low rate of absenteeism, for example, the Municipal Electric Railway had 2.5 percent, and the Factory for Construction of Boiler Equipment and the Rubber Factory, formerly Semperit, had 7 percent. The greatest cause of absenteeism is alcoholism.

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